

# Comparisons of Job Characteristics

**Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**

**Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)**

[Compare Knowledge](#)

[Compare Skills](#)

[Compare Abilities](#)

[Compare Detailed Work Activities](#)

[Compare Tools and Technologies](#)

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

## Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 89

**Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**

**Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)**

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Customer and Personal Service	11.3	17.1	18.4	0	Current knowledge level may be sufficient
Psychology	6.4	9.1	14.6	>>	Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient
Therapy and Counseling	3.8	8.7	15.0	>>	Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient
Medicine and Dentistry	3.7	8.1	12.5	>>	Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 89

**Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**

**Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)**

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Social Perceptiveness	9.1	10.8	11.8	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Coordination	9.1	9.3	10.2	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Service Orientation	7.9	9.3	10.8	>	Skill level is likely sufficient
Technology Design	2.6	3.8	3.3	<	A higher skill level may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Abilities

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 93

Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)

Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)

Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Static Strength	5.0	8.8	8.6	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Trunk Strength	5.7	7.9	8.3	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Extent Flexibility	4.8	7.3	8.5	>	Current ability level is likely sufficient
Stamina	4.0	6.6	6.6	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Gross Body Coordination	3.9	6.1	6.6	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Dynamic Strength	3.5	5.9	5.4	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Speed of Limb Movement	3.2	5.5	5.5	0	Current ability level may be sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 100

Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)

Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)

Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity
Administer medications or treatments	46
Apply traction	85
Assist patient in performing breathing exercises	89
Assist patient with dressing, undressing, grooming, or bathing	77
Confer with physical therapy staff to discuss treatment	99
Construct medical supportive devices	87
Evaluate patient response to therapy	78
Fit medical supportive devices	85
Fit patients for prosthetic device, using static or dynamic alignment	92
Instruct patient in use of supportive device	87
Instruct patients in methods to improve functional activities	87
Inventory medical supplies or instruments	67
Lift or transport ill or injured patients	69
Maintain dental or medical records	64
Monitor medical oxygen equipment	89
Motivate patients to practice exercises	89
Observe patient condition	48
Order or purchase supplies, materials, or equipment	35
Position patient for therapy	70
Prepare patient reports	66
Prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments	70
Retrieve files or charts	92

Schedule meetings or appointments	68
Set up patient care equipment	75
Take messages	68
Use massage therapy procedures	81
Use medical equipment in direct patient care	75
Weigh patients	75
Work with persons with mental disabilities or illnesses	62

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus  
Occupation to Associated  
Occupation: 93

**Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**  
**Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)**

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
Ambulation and transfer and positioning aids for the physically challenged	27
Blood pressure units and related products	11
Computers	1
Content authoring and editing software	1
Gait training products	43
Heat and cold therapy products	29
Industry specific software	1
Orthopedic softgoods for lower extremity	33
Patient lifts	35
Patient transport products	18
Prosthetic devices or accessories and supplies	56
Vascular and compression therapy equipment and supplies	33

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.